

## ABSTRACT

A vertical cavity surface emitting laser having an oxidizable layer oxidized with enhanced lateral oxidation. The oxidation may involve adding oxygen in the form of a fluid, with or without other fluid such as water vapor, in the oxidizing environment, and/or in the layer to be oxidized. This oxidation approach may be used for layers with relatively low aluminum content such as in InP based structures, or with high aluminum content such as in GaAs based structures.